

## OTHER NOTICES

**Chesser, Eustace.** *Love and Marriage.* London, 1957. Pan Books. Pp. 189. Price 2s.

THIS book was first published in 1946 as *Marriage and Freedom* and a revised edition was reviewed in these pages in April 1953.\*

The "Let us see how it goes" attitude to marriage has among some young people, the author believes, replaced the idea of a life-long union and it is for these that Dr. Chesser has written this book. Its appearance in a cheap edition is to be welcomed.

**Davies, M. B.** *Hygiene and Health Education for Training Colleges.* Seventh Edition. London, 1957. Longmans Green. Pp. x + 438. Price 14s. 6d.

THE second edition of this book was reviewed in April 1938.† That it has now run to a seventh edition is an indication of its usefulness.

In the preface to this edition the author tells us that the material on psycho-somatic disorders, and on anti-biotics has been modified to meet recent trends, that there has been some revision of material on nutrients, vitamins and milk and that additional illustrations on the testing of deafness have been inserted.

**Fromm, Erich.** *The Art of Loving.* London, 1957. Allen & Unwin. Pp. ix + 133. Price 9s. 6d.

**Hacker, Rose.** *Telling the Teenagers. A Guide to Parents, Teachers and Youth Leaders.* London, 1957. Deutsch. Pp. 213. Price 8s. 6d.

BOTH these books are about the art of *living* but how differently they approach the question. Dr. Fromm discusses religious and philosophic ideas and the ideal approach to life, ranging over civilizations past and present, while Mrs. Hacker tells of the problems teenagers in England face nowadays, and tries to provide practical and realistic answers, believing that "To oppose facts with a moral truth is silly."

Dr. Fromm's thesis is that love is "the ultimate and real need in every human being" and he inveighs against our Western society for stultifying love. While he is himself not religious, the author uses the word love in the religious and mystical sense of love of God and all mankind, making the title of his book more than misleading.

The main part of the book is concerned with the analysis of the nature of different types of love, brotherly love being the most fundamental kind of love, motherly love being love of the helpless and

unconditional, while fatherly love makes demands on the child and is conditional on its good behaviour. This leads on to a discussion of the matriarchal and patriarchal elements in Western religions and their common origin in Aristotelian logic as opposed to the paradoxical logic underlying Chinese and Indian religious ideas. *The Art of Loving* is a very short book for the range of subjects it covers; the serious student will be worried by the lack of references, the amateur by the heavy humourless style and one reader at least ended feeling Dr. Fromm's love of humanity was somewhat patriarchal and demanding.

Mrs. Rose Hacker is a married woman with a family who has been a marriage counsellor for ten years and has had long experience in talking with and advising teenagers. The book is based on the actual questions teenagers have asked her and her response to them, and would much better be named "Talking with Teenagers" for Mrs. Hacker is refreshingly free from a didactic attitude.

The brief fictional biographies of teenagers in the second chapter give an idea of the width of Mrs. Hacker's experience, and throughout her genuine interest in them as individuals is apparent. Every sort of question raised by teenagers is discussed from "what is the right age to have a boy friend?" to "Is it all right to have sexual intercourse before marriage if you are engaged?" There is a chapter tracing the child's development emotionally on the basis of a Freudian theory but Mrs. Hacker broadmindedly gives a reference to a Jungian approach. (Throughout the references are excellent and complete.) The last part of the book answers questions about marriage and goes into considerable detail about the problems of setting up a home. Some may feel that hire purchase and interior decoration are subjects rather far from the central theme of the book but while discussing just these matters, Mrs. Hacker reveals her subtlety, her wisdom and her feeling for life as a whole. I feel sure a great many people will read and enjoy this book.

RACHEL CONRAD.

**Philp, A. F. and Timms, Noel.** *The Problem of the "Problem Family."* London, 1957. Family Service Units. Pp. x + 77. Price 7s. 6d.

THE authors of this review of the literature on problem families are a psychiatric social worker and the leader of a Family Service Unit. Their outlook is therefore predominantly that of the case worker, but they have given due consideration to the administrative aspects of the problem, as well as to welfare schemes for re-education sponsored by local authorities or by voluntary bodies. They are influenced, as Professor Titmuss points out in

\* EUGENICS REVIEW, 45, 56.

† EUGENICS REVIEW, 30, 69.

the Foreword, by the need to make explicit the ethical and social values underlying any official or private intervention in these families; their standpoint is revealed by a significant quotation, beginning, "I never did like the term 'Problem Families,'" which follows the title page. They develop this theme in an introductory chapter, demonstrating that although the term is vague, dependent on changing social conditions, and indefinable in terms of inherent traits, it has served to stimulate interest and focus attention on these handicapped families.

They hold that what are now needed are not more surveys and statistical analyses, but a fuller understanding of how internal and external factors act together to produce social disorganization. They recognize that there are technical and theoretical problems that must be solved before this can be achieved, but do not consider them in detail in their brief final chapter on research. The book is a useful and thoughtful compendium of what has been written and done, chiefly in this country, to study and help this unfortunate group of people.

HILDA LEWIS.

**World Health Organization.** *Administration of Maternal and Child Health Services: Second Report of the Expert Committee on Maternal and Child Health.* Technical Report Series, No. 115. Geneva, 1957. W.H.O. Pp. 28. Price 1s. 9d.

THE development of a comprehensive maternal and child health programme and the integration of such activities into the general public health and medical services are discussed in the report.

Principles of programme planning, organization and structure of maternal and child health services and techniques of administration are examined; problems needing further research are considered, and, finally, the Expert Committee recommends that further studies be promoted in major maternal

and child health problems of mutual concern to several countries, using standardized methods designed for comparative research purposes.

**Wrong, Dennis H.** *Population.* New York, 1956. Random House. Pp. 128. Price 95 cents.

THE author in his preface describes this little book as "a short introduction to demography," and so makes a fair assessment of a text that should be very suitable as general reading for sixth forms in this country. Wisely, he has not attempted to deal with all the aspects of a subject of wide range. Mortality, fertility and migration are treated, but not marriage and divorce, measures of replacement or population projections. World population and the Malthusian problem are allotted chapters—which are perhaps too far apart—but there is hardly room for regional analyses, although emphasis is laid on the experience of the West rather than that of the East.

The first part of the book, leading into the basic concepts and facts, reads very smoothly and leaves nothing to be desired as a first hour's reading for a beginner. In the mortality chapter, the results of condensation and simplification are not quite so happy and the reader who is not a beginner in this subject may occasionally be slightly jarred. Fertility is dealt with at greater length, and there is an excellent pithy explanation of the significance of differential fertility. Recent trends in fertility differentials have, however, been somewhat oversimplified, and the reference to eugenics is confined to so brief a discussion of intelligence tests that it might have been better replaced by a fuller treatment of another subject. The final chapter starts off on the wrong foot by saying, without qualification, that Malthus "is generally considered to be the father of demography as a field of scholarly study"; nevertheless, it manages in twenty small pages to sum up neatly the main problem of the present day.

P. R. C.